

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 – 26 are presented for reconsideration and further examination in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner required restriction of the present application to one of three groups of claims where: Group I includes claims 2 – 6 and 23 – 24; Group II includes claims 11 – 18 and 25; and Group III includes claims 7 – 10, 19 – 22 and 26. Also, in this Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 – 26 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

By this Response and Amendment,

claim 1 has been amended to more definitely recite the step of “charging said coating or film” and the step of “determining at least partially, at least one critically physical or chemical parameter;”

the restriction requirement has been traversed based on the allowability of the linking claim;

the claims have been amended to remove the phrase “in particular” and the term “preferably;”

and

the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph have been traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not introduce any new matter, within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §132, to this application.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner required restriction of the present application to one of three groups of claims where: Group I includes claims 2 – 6 and 23 – 24 and are asserted to be drawn to measuring a critical parameter; Group II includes claims 11 – 18 and 25 and are asserted to be drawn to charging with absorbate; and Group III includes claims 7 – 10, 19 – 22 and 26 and are asserted to be drawn to test material. The Examiner asserted that claim 1 links Groups I, II and III.

Election

By this Response and Amendment, claims 1-6 and 23-24, the Group I claims, are elected for examination without traverse.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1 – 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite.

Response

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the claims submitted herewith obviate the rejection. In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

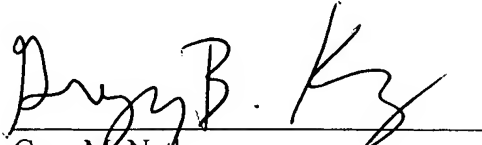
In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0112.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: April 25, 2005
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